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Flax Production Tips

Adaptation

- Flax does well after cereals or corn.
- Flax yields better on medium to heavy texture fertile soil with high water holding capacity. Soil must be well drained.
- Crop rotation of at least three years between flax crops is recommended.
- Flax can be grown in medium to high elevations with shorter growing seasons

Seeding and seeding Practices

- Use good, preferably certified, seed. Reductions in stand can be expected when using inadequate seed. Poor or uneven emergence result in lower yields and plants that lack vigor.
- **Flax seed bed must be moist and firm.** If irrigation is present applying seed to the surface of the ground and a harrowing plus water usually results in good emergence. Flax should be sown shallow. Use a disc drill with 6 to 7 inch spacing is preferred. Place the seed 1/2 to 1 inch from the surface in moist ground.
- Dry land seeding rate should be 27 to 35 pounds per acre. The lower seeding rates have a better chance for taller plants with better branching and higher yield.
- Irrigated seeding rates should be 40 to 45 pounds depending on the quality of seed.
- Early seeding generally produces the best results. Emerging plants can withstand 27 degrees F. At the two leaf stage, flax plants can with stand 18 degree F.

Fertilizer Rates

- Always use soil testing to determine nutrients application rates.
- **Do not place fertilizer with the seed.** Flax is very sensitive to seed-placed fertilizer even at low rates.
- Flax will respond to N—K—S and your soils should not be deficient. Phosphorus is less pronounced with flax than other annual crops. If soils have low end levels of P, then application should be made.
- Micro nutrients soil testing for iron and zinc should be done. Deficiencies on these micros can sometimes be overcome with post emergence field application.
- Dry land general recommendations: 30-70 units N, 30-50 units S
- Irrigation general recommendations: 100-125 units N, 50-75 units S, and 45 units P
- Soil tests are preferred to general recommendations especially for zinc and iron.

Weed Control

- There are both pre-emergence and post emergence chemical available to use. Treflan or Sonalan are the recommended pre-emergence chemicals. Bison or Curtain M is the preferred post emergence chemical.
- Select 2EC is the recommendation for post emergence grass control.
- We do recommend the use of pre-emergence herbicide with post emergence used if needed.

Harvesting

- If seed balls mature evenly, flax may be harvested on the stump. If the flax matures uneven, swathing is advised.
- Combine settings are similar to safflower. Slow cylinder speed, open cylinder or rotor clearance, air similar to wheat with very tight sieve and chaffer settings.
- Flax is ready to harvest and store when seed is 8% moisture.



This bulletin serves as a guideline for production. Conditions may vary in individual fields. Good agronomic practices should always be followed by the grower to ensure the maximum potential.

(Best internet source of information <http://www.flaxcouncil>)